

Jackson County Department of Public Health

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According to the CDC an estimated 1.2 million people in the United States have HIV, including 161,800 people who are unaware of their status. Almost 40% of new HIV infections are transmitted by people who don't know that they have the virus. The CDC recommends that everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 get tested for HIV at least once as a part of routine health care, and more often if you do things that may increase your risk for getting HIV. For those at higher risk, the CDC recommends getting tested at least once a year.

Those considered higher risk include:

- A man who has sex with men
- Having sex with someone who has HIV
- Using drugs with needles
- Having sex in exchange for drugs or money
- Having had 1 or more new sex partners who could have HIV since your last test

June 27 is recognized as National HIV Testing Day and is a great opportunity to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment.

The Jackson County Department of Public Health offers free and confidential HIV testing Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 5 PM. For appointments or more information call 828-587-8289.

Know your status so that you can make the best decisions to keep yourself and your partner(s) healthy.